

## Marine For Life

Built on the philosophy, “Once a Marine, Always a Marine,” and fulfilling the promise in “taking care of our own,” the Marine For Life program offers support to the average 27,000 honorably discharged Marines transitioning from active service back to civilian life each year.

The program, formally initiated during FY 2002, utilizes more than 100 Reserve Marines serving as “Hometown Links” (HTLs) in more than 80 cities developing Marine-friendly networks to help transitioning and injured Marines and their families get settled into their new communities. Approximately 2,000 Marines are logging onto the web-based electronic network at [www.M4L.usmc.mil](http://www.M4L.usmc.mil) for assistance each month. Once Marines register with the program, the Hometown Link connects them with established networks that include employers, mentors, Veterans Service Organizations and community contacts that help provide employment opportunities, education and veterans’ benefits information and other support services.

To provide this support, the Marine For Life program taps into a network of former Marines and Marine-friendly businesses, organizations, and individuals willing to lend a hand to a Marine who has been recently honorably separated. Assistance from career retention specialists and transitional recruiters, in addition to the Marine For Life website and Hometown Links, helps get the word out about the program.

### MARINE FOR LIFE- INJURED SUPPORT (M4L-IS)

Leveraging the organizational network and strengths of the Marine for Life “Classic” program as illustrated above, the Marine for Life Injured Support program was developed to assist both combat and non-combat injured Marines, Sailors who have served (or are serving) with Marines, and their families. The goal of M4L-IS is to provide needs-based individual and family assistance in order to bridge the gap between military medical care and the Department of Veterans Affairs and assist with adjustment back to the civilian sector, or to assist with reintegration back to active/reserve duty. Planned features of the program include:

- Uniformed assistance for diverse internal and external problem resolution for injured Marines, Sailors and their families.
- Provide pre and post-service separation case support and follow-up
- Assistance in working with physical evaluation boards to include timely processing, as well as retention in uniform when desired and feasible
- Provide referral to DoD Military Injured Support Center for 24/7/365 information
- Provide national hiring assistance
- Provide one-source information for veterans, public, and private organizations providing support to our seriously injured

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- Coordinate USMC/Department of Veterans Affairs handling of Marine Corps cases
  - Development and recommendation of any required proposals for legislative changes to better support our injured Marines and Sailors and their families.

MARADMIN 262/05 (14 June 2005) announced the Initial Operating Capability and provided amplifying instructions for the M4L-IS program.